



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - February 19, 2003

- ***In the West***, beneficial showers continue across ***northern California*** and the ***Northwest***, but unfavorably dry conditions prevail elsewhere from the ***Rockies westward***. Although recent heavy precipitation boosted ***Southwestern*** soil moisture and high-elevation snow packs, additional storminess will be needed to provide significant drought relief.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather favors overwintering wheat, but persistently above-normal temperatures are reducing the crop's winter hardiness.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, light rain and snow showers are developing across ***southernmost parts of the region***, including parts of the ***Ohio Valley***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, mild, dry weather is easing livestock stress.
- ***In the South***, widespread showers are returning to interior portions of the region, where last weekend's heavy rainfall saturated soils and caused generally minor flooding. Meanwhile in the ***northern Mid-Atlantic region and southern New England***, recovery from the recent 1- to 3-foot snow storm is well underway.

Outlook: Another round of rain and snow, albeit light, will accompany a mid-week cold front across the ***Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic States***, while Pacific storminess will maintain the threat of showers in ***northern California*** and the ***Northwest***. By week's end, rain will spread across ***Texas*** and the ***Southwest***, while a fast-moving storm system will provide rain and mountain snows to the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***. Elsewhere, a cold front will bring a chance of snow to the ***upper Midwest***, while scattered showers will develop in ***Florida***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 24-28 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***Atlantic and Gulf Coast States*** and the ***Pacific Northwest***, but mostly dry conditions in the ***upper Midwest***. Warmer-than-normal conditions are forecast for the ***Midwest*** and ***Florida***, while below-normal temperatures are expected in the ***Southwest***.

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